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Torch is Wath Academy's student-produced magazine, published every half term

You can contribute to Torch by attending the after-school club on Thursdays at 2:50 pm in G20 or by emailing articles to torch@wathacademy.com

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HOUSE UPDATE



he excitement of Rome's impressive victories last year is still in the air, with many of Rome's students anticipating a great day out at Alton Towers



to celebrate!
Rome cannot
rest on their
laurels if they
want to retain
the Games Cup
and the Work
Cup, though.
It was also a
pleasure to see

a deserving Troy lift the Sports Day Cup!

Games Cup					
Troy	6				
Carthage	5				
Thebes	4				
Rome	3				
Athens	2				
Sparta	I				

It is great to see so many students get involved so far this year, determined to win points for their house, and celebrating so enthusiastically when declared victorious!

Currently, Troy lead the

Games Cup and joint lead the Staff Cup with Rome, but victories have come from every house and all have something to be proud of already.

We have yet to declare our first creative task winner so I must not give too much away, but I know Miss Lessells and Miss Williams have thoroughly enjoyed seeing students put their creative minds to work in G26 on Tuesday lunchtimes, creating a textile-based Black History Month celebration.

Netball tournaments in Weeks 6 and 7, featuring students across Years 7-10, was an amazing start to the Sports Leaders' Cup, which promises to be a great addition to the House

Staff Cup						
Rome	10					
Troy	10					
Athens	9					
Thebes	7					
Carthage	3					
Sparta	3					

calendar. All students did themselves and their houses proud. It was Thebes and Rome who secured a place in the Year 7/8 finals in Week 8. The Year 9/10 round-robin tournament was helped by the involvement of the netball scholars, who did so with great enthusiasm.

A new year also brings with it new opportunities, and it would be amiss of me not to advertise the opportunity to apply for the House Captain (Year 12) and House Vice-Captain (Year 9) roles. Not only will you be developing leadership skills and helping your House win those coveted trophies, you will be cementing yourself in the very history of the House system at Wath. Please look out for the link to the form on Satchel One.

Mr Brown • Head of Thebes



ANNE FRANK **EXHIBITION**

In the third week of term, Wath Academy joined with the Anne Frank Trust to host an exhibition led by our students.



n September, myself and a group of Year 9 students were selected as ambassadors for the Anne Frank Exhibition at Wath Academy.

As part of our role, we were entrusted to learn all the facts about Anne Frank and her life. A member of the Anne Frank trust called Billy provided us with all the information we needed. Billy additionally gave us other resources, such as display panels and information booklets to help with our presentation.

Each student read a statement about Anne's life and we used the materials to explain it in further detail. The exhibition was presented to different year groups within our school and then opened to the public on Wednesday 18th September for one evening.

I have learnt so much about the life and story of Anne Frank, particularly around the timeline leading up to Anne's death. Anne and her family spent more than two years hiding in a secret annex during World War II. In this period, Anne wrote a diary,

which was later published at her father's request.

Anne suffered badly during her time at the concentration camps, especially at Bergen-Belsen, where there was a lack of food and it was very cold. Anne and her sister contracted typhus which resulted in their death.

I have gained an understanding about the importance of her diary and how it's been used to tell the story through Anne's eyes across the world.

The whole experience was amazing. I found it extremely interesting to learn about Anne Frank. The information given to us was easy to understand and when we did have questions it was straightforward to get the answers. We all worked very well together and I enjoyed being a part of a great team.

I am glad I was able to be an ambassador for the Anne Frank Exhibition.

Amelia O · Year 9









QUANTUM TECHNOLOGY IMPACT DAY

Year 10 scientists visit the University of Oxford.

ast week, a group of Year 10 students attended the Quantum Technology Impact Day, hosted by the University of Oxford. The day provided an insight into what quantum technology involves and the exciting future career opportunities in the field. Students engaged in a carousel of different workshops led by lecturers, PhD students and post-doctoral researchers from the University.

Students visited the laboratories where they experimented with polarising filters, observed the visible spectra of different elements and were shown how a magnetic trap works. They also had the opportunity to see what a quantum computer looks like. There was even a giant game of snakes and ladders used to explain the concepts of superposition and entanglement!





At the end of the day, there was a careers panel where students were able to post questions to experts from local quantum industries. They were able to find out how the panel members got into the field of quantum technology, what their typical day looks like and what the biggest challenges about working in this new and emerging industry are.

Students also sought advice on further reading and what A Level options provide the best foundations for a career in this area.

Our Year 10s were presented with some very high-level scientific concepts, but they rose to this challenge and asked some insightful questions; they were outstanding ambassadors for Wath Academy.

Mrs Barker • Subject Leader Physics

STARTING AT WATH ACADEMY

Year 7 student Erin C explains some of the systems she learnt when she began at the school.

ello, reader. Today I am going to discuss how easy it is to make friends here at Wath Academy. I am a Year 7 student who has made plenty of new friends on my transition days and in my first two weeks of secondary school. Today I will be taking you through all of the things you may be worried about.

Transitions

As soon as you walk in to our sports hall on the first transition day, you are shown a poster of your form group showing where you will find out your tutor group for the rest of your student journey. Once you have sat down in your groups, you may recognise some faces from your primary school. If not, then you are in luck there are plenty of people going through the same scenario as you are. As it is your first three days of Wath Academy, you will stay in your tutor group to encounter all of your lessons. Finally, on your third day of transition, all future Year 7 students receive their timetable, including their enrichment on the Wednesday afternoons written on there - but, anyway, let's get back on track and we will talk about enrichment another time

How to Read Your Timetable

At the top of the box, there will be your

year half which you will write on the front of your books in every subject for your first two weeks. Then there will be a forward slash and the first two letters of the subject e.g. 8L/En3. The number written after the initials of your subject is the set you're in. However, if the number is before the slash it is just the case that in certain classes have your set number before the slash, rather than after. Below all of that is the initials of your teacher so you can match them up to their names at the bottom of the sheet. After that there is the room you are in for your lesson. At the beginning, there will be one of the following letters: G, F or S these stand for ground floor, first floor and second floor e.g. F24, S4 or G20.

Finding Your Way Around

On your first day, it will only be Year 7 and sixth form on the campus. However, this does not mean you have the right to disobey the one way system. I am warning you: if the one way system is broken by any student it may lead to a traffic jam. Just simply follow this system until you find your room number. For the first two weeks, you should not be concerned about being late as staff are very kind and will not put late marks on the register if you get lost.

Erin C • Year 7



It's not just students who start new schools in September — teachers do too. Torch speaks to three new teachers to find out more about them.

Miss Molson Art and Technology

What inspired you to become a teacher at Wath Academy?

Wath Academy provides a lot of fabulous opportunities for all students. Its thriving Art and Technology Department drew me in, as well as the calm school atmosphere with a friendly staff community.

Why do you like teaching your subject?

As an Art and Design teacher, I believe creative attributes contribute to creating well rounded individuals, which can explore links between art and the world around them. The triangulation of curriculum, history and culture within my subject not only inspires self-improvement and development but builds enthusiasm which inspires student motivation and refinement of their artistic intent.

What do you do outside of teaching?

In my spare time, I am an active individual partaking in dance classes, hikes and gym classes. I love spending time with my friends and finding new places to eat nice food.

Miss McGarry Maths

What inspired you to become a teacher at Wath Academy?

I wanted to inspire the next generation of mathematicians. I believed the ethos of the school would provide me with the foundations to do this.

Why do you like teaching your subject?

I love the challenge and logical thinking that maths provides.

What do you do outside of teaching? Days out with my little girl!

Wath Academy's thriving Art and Technology Department drew me in, as well as the calm school atmosphere.

Miss Ridge-Harrison Science

What inspired you to become a teacher at Wath Academy?

I came to Wath as a student myself and I love the school! I am really passionate about helping to improve the local community, especially as this is where I grew up.

Why do you like teaching your subject?

I love teaching Science because it is such a broad subject. There are so many different topics and skills, so there is definitely something for everyone. Even though my own subject specialism is Physics, I really enjoy teaching bits of Biology and Chemistry.

I came to Wath as a student myself and I love the school!

What do you do outside of teaching?

I love to watch and play netball and that is what I spend a lot of my time doing. I captain a team playing in a South Yorkshire league and really enjoy our matches and training sessions. I have also been finding getting involved in school netball really interesting. Using my knowledge and passion and seeing this help students improve has been really rewarding.

Ruby R • Year 12



A WORLD OF IMAGINATION



Wath Academy opened its doors to prospective students and their parents at its annual open evening. This year's theme was 'The World of Imagination. Open evening helper Isobel R in Year 11 reports on the night.

n the 27th of September, Wath Academy opened its doors to Year 5 and 6 prospective students. Over 1,600 attendees were transported into a 'World of Imagination', helping Gangster Granny steal the crown jewels in Maths, watching talented students in Performing Arts, and even meeting the BFG in Art!

Special mentions must go to Performing Arts and Art for their brilliant costumes, and to Maths, English, and Food for their ability to transport us to another world.

The evening started in the hall with speeches from Mr Ransome and our Year 6 transition lead, Mr Davies. The attendees were given insight into the brilliant enrichment programme here at Wath, and were talked through our curriculum intent. Then came the exciting part: tours of the academy. Lead by the Wath Wizarding staff (the Senior Leadership Team), the Year 5 and Year 6 children, along with parents and carers, embarked on a journey through

their imagination, seeing old favourites come to life at the hands of dedicated Wath Academy staff. It's safe to say that everyone involved loved every minute!

All students walked away with a goody bag and a smile on their face, with one budding Wathonian calling it the "best night ever". It wasn't just the children enjoying themselves, though; one of our student helpers fed back that it "exceeded [a parent's] expectations of a school open evening".

A sincere thank you to all staff and students who gave up their time to help. We sincerely hope that everyone enjoyed the evening and got a good idea of how special are school is. Don't forget to redeem your Golden Ticket in reception, any day, any time!

Isobel R • Year | |















Department Themes

English The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe

Computing Ready Player One

Food Charlie and the Chocolate Factory

Life Skills and RS Alice in Wonderland

Science Escape Room

History Goodnight Mr Tom

Geography The Lord of the Rings

Art The BFG

Modern Foreign Languages Don Quixote

Maths Gangster Granny

Performing Arts Matilda

PE Harry Potter



All photos by Adam Galliford Photography



Mr Thorpe explains what the Duke of Edinburgh's Award is and why you should sign up.

he Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) is an internationally recognised programme that offers you a unique opportunity to develop valuable life skills while having fun and making a positive impact on the community.

It's open to students in the school in Years 9, 10 and 12. The programme in school is

divided into two levels (Bronze and Silver), each requiring you to complete a series of challenges. These challenges span four sections: volunteering, physical, skills, and expedition. It challenges you to step outside your comfort zones and tackle activities that require planning, discipline, and commitment. Whether it's hiking or a new skill, you will be able to take charge of



your goals and accomplish them through your own effort. This sense of achievement will instil and cement a belief in your amazing capabilities and skills that are vital for now and your adult life.

In the smart phone modern world, it can be difficult to maintain a healthy, active lifestyle. The physical section of the DofE will ensure that you remain active by committing to regular physical exercise. Whether it's through sports, dance, or another form of physical activity, students develop long-term habits of fitness, which contribute to both physical and mental well-being. The DofE programme teaches you crucial life skills that will benefit you far beyond your school years.

Time management, problem-solving, communication, and teamwork are integral parts of completing the various sections of the award. For example, the expedition section means you will work as a team to navigate through unfamiliar territory, plan routes, and make decisions under pressure. These are skills that employers highly value and sixth form colleges will ask you about.

The volunteering section will encourage you to give back to the local community. Whether through working with a local charity, tutoring younger students, or organising events for community centres, you will develop a sense of social responsibility. Volunteering also offers a chance to meet new people, broaden perspectives, and understand the importance of helping others.

Participation in the DofE Award is a fantastic addition to your CV or university application. The programme's fantastic reputation will showcase your initiative, dedication, and well-rounded character. Admissions officers and employers will

really appreciate the commitment needed to complete the DofE and it can set you apart in competitive fields. The application for will get you the interview; your character, as demonstrated though the DofE, will secure you the place.

One of the most enjoyable aspects of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award is the opportunity to create unforgettable memories and experiences. It could be the adventure of the expedition or the shared accomplishment of volunteering with friends. You are likely to make lasting memories and contribute to school and the community in ways you could not imagine. Additionally, the sense of friendship that forms during group challenges will last a lifetime, not just for Christmas...

fantastic addition to your CV or university application.

One of the best features of the DofE programme is its flexibility. The activities students choose are entirely up to you, meaning you can follow your personal interests or try something completely new. The programme is designed to be accessible to all students, regardless of physical ability or background, offering you not only the chance to succeed but to excel.

There will be a letter issued on Class Charts that will enable you to sign up, pay the deposit and commit yourself to the fantastic opportunity that the DofE programme offers.

MrThorpe • Duke of Edinburgh Co-ordinator

From the Archives

Each edition of *Torch*, we reprint an article from Wath Academy's extensive collection of old school magazines (available online at wathacademy.com/torch). This issue, we go back to the April 1928 edition of *The Wath Magazine* to read a pupil's account of visiting the dentist. Was it really the enjoyable experience our student says it was or is there some sarcasm in the writing?



A Visit to Our Friend the Dentist

any people hold the idea that the stopping or filling of a tooth is a horrible experience. I hope to clear up any doubts on this matter with the following description of what happened to me.

After a brisk walk I reached the house of the dentist. His name and profession imprinted on a plate of brass were so pleasing to my sight, I looked forward to the moment when I should make his acquaintance.

Thoughts of the joys which awaited me flashed across my mind.

I rang the bell, and after being greeted warmly, I was shown into the waiting-room.

Questions as to what my mission was were poured upon me by my fellow-waiters. On telling them that I hoped to have a very much decayed double-tooth stopped, looks of envy wore cast towards me and they unanimously agreed that I was a lucky fellow. Ah! How proud I was. How I blessed my tooth!

The next few minutes that I waited were passed in joyful expectation.

I was summoned by my greatest friend
– the dentist. I entered his sanctum. Ah!
What a delightful aroma of extracted
teeth pervaded the air. I breathed my
full. I was graciously shown a sumptuous
chair into which I sank, at peace with all
the world

On showing the dentist my mischievous tooth, he brought out a large piece of machinery something in the nature of an electric drill. It was placed on the tooth and the happiest moment of my life was realized. The drill ate into my tooth and now and again touched the nerve – a thrill ran through my whole body; how full of energy I seemed. I wanted to leap up and dash round the room, but above all to put the dent in dentist – just to find an outlet for my overflowing energy.

I half leaped up and sank back into my seat. How happy I was! The surroundings were delightful, pleasing, and assuring. The few minutes during which the nerve of my tooth was crushed and battered wore the happiest in my life.

Ah! How I look forward to the time when I shall see that nice gentleman again.

R. Kirkby • VI (1928)

RABBIT CARE

Rabbit-owner Jasmine S shares some tips.

hat's up, doc? You should know about the well-known character who's famous for using this phrase every cartoon he's in.

Talking about Bugs Bunny what do you know about looking after real bunnies?

Well they aren't the hardest... but not the easiest.

Having two fighting rabbits, I have experience of everything you need to know. One heads-up before you read on: my advice is to not get two boys as they have more of the chance of fighting (I didn't

follow that advice) – either get two girls or a boy and a girl but neuter them.

They are very playful but their teeth are sharp so get them toys to chew – then their teeth become blunter. They do hurt when they bite but not for long.

If their nails become sharp you can either file or cut them, whatever you prefer.

lasmine S · Year 7

More advice on caring for rabbits is available on the RSPCA website at rspca.org.uk/adviceandwelfare/pets/rabbits





Jasmine's two pet rabbits, Benjamin (left) and Biscuit (right), enjoying some carrots

HALLOWEER TRADITIONS

Poppy G researches the history of Halloween.

alloween is a world-renowned tradition, celebrated by many countries around the world. It also has a very large history behind it. Did you know Halloween used to be a time for couples and love, like a second Valentine's Day? It is extremely popular in United Kingdom and America, but in places like Africa it isn't really celebrated.

Some people have a genuine fear of this holiday, others call it fun. People with samhainphobia dread it as, instead of heights and such, they are petrified of Halloween.

Back when Halloween had just begun, trick or treaters had to dance at the doorstep for sweets. The Celtic event the Festival of Samhain is where Halloween became a traditional holiday. This festivity was to celebrate the end of summer and the beginning of a new season.

Pumpkins are carved to keep away 'bad' spirits, which is why you would traditionally carve in 'scary' faces and features on them.

Poppy G • Year 7

BONFIRE NIGHT

Guy Fawkes Day is coming up on 5th November.



THOMAS TUCHEL SOUTHGATE'S SUCCESSOR



Thomas Tuchel has been appointed the third foreign manager of the England men's team.

fter the Euros took place this year in Germany, Gareth Southgate, long-time England manager and former England player, decided it was time to step down and leave the role to someone else. Southgate managed the England men's team for a total of eight years and within that time led his squad to two major cup finals where, unfortunately, he was unable to gain victory. Although Southgate didn't manage to win any trophies, he was well respected and justified his decision to leave his role as England manager. Due to his swift resignation, as it came with immediate effect, Lee Carsley came in as England's Interim manager and has managed to lead England to win three of their four Nations League games. Carsley will remain England manager until January 2025 when Southgate's successor, Thomas Tuchel will

Thomas Tuchel is already known to most England fans due to his role as Chelsea manager in 2021 until he was dismissed in 2022. During his time at Chelsea, he

fulfil the role of England manager.

was named Best FIFA Men's Coach and won the UEFA Champions League in his début season. After leaving Chelsea, he signed for Bayern Munich and then won the Bundesliga title before being sacked the following season. The German manager has stated in his first press conference that he's "up to the task" and that he "will do

everything to show respect to this role and to this country". This came after backlash from people on social media due to Tuchel being German and managing the English national team caused problems for some. However, others were celebrating the

appointment and believe that he will be the right man for the role.

Tuchel will manage England in the Nations League next year, which has already begun this year with the league stages taking place from September through to November 2024, and will hopefully expose the team to positives and maybe even a trophy. He becomes the new manager on New Year's Day 2025.

Ruby R • Year 12

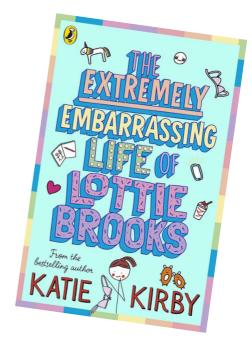
REVIEWS

The Extremely Embarrassing Life of Lottie Brooks by Katie Kirby

This book is about a girl called Lottie Brooks and it's pretty much her diary on how embarrassing her life is and how she feels about her best friend Molly moving to Australia.

Lottie is starting high school and has to make new friends. However, she keeps making a fool of herself and getting given nicknames like 'Rice Krispy Girl' because one morning she came to school with a Rice Krispy in her hair. But the most embarrassing thing is that finally she had made some new friends and was invited to go swimming and, in the excitement of finally doing something with some proper friends, pulls out her old swimming costume that has a unicorn and a tutu on it and has to go swimming in front of her whole group of friends who just laugh at her.

This is only one of the many hilarious moments in this book. I found this book quite funny and a good book to read if you like diary/comedy books.



I found that, out of the many characters, Lottie is the funniest and is easy to relate to. However, there are lots of funny characters like her friends Amber and Poppy. Also her little brother Toby is quite funny as well.

There are also another five books in the series.

Ruby B • Year 7

Write for Torch!

Attend the after-school club on Thursdays at 2:50 pm in G20

Or email articles to torch@wathacademy.com



4. Sunlight or a stake through the heart 5. Turnips

2. Illinois 3. Coven

Halloween Quiz

1. 31st October

Halloween Wordsearch

Puzzle Solutions



The BeWILDerwood Series by Tom Blofeld

So, I am going to recommend an amazing book series called BeWILDerwood. There are three long books and one shorter book – The Ballad of BeWILDerwood – which is just a summary of one of them.

The first book is called A Boggle at BeWILDerwood. It is a green, hard-back book and is about this boggle called Swampy. He ventures off to the Scary Lake where water jets spurt out of it. Later that day, he walks over to Twiggle Village to see is cousin Moss and his girlfriend Leaflette. They venture off to find out what happened inside the Scary Lake to make such a tremendous SPLASH. To find out more about this amazing book, you will just have to read it for yourself! I really recommend it.

The second book is a purple, hard-back book called *The BeWILDerbats*. (This one is my personal favourite.) Swampy, Moss and Leaflette go to rescue a tiny Twiggle called Sticklenose who is stuck up high in a tree. However, they will need to be helped by the BeWILDerbats. Although there

are many pictures in this book series, the pictures which are in this book are very detailed and well-drawn.

The third book is called A BeWILDermuddle and this is a yellow hard-back book. In this book, the wandering Grubbles have arrived in BeWILDerwood. Swampy and his friends go and find the Hippopotamuddle and you will need to find out why.

There is also another book which is orange and has a hard-back cover. This one is called *The Ballad of BeWILDerwood*. This is a poetic book and isn't too long. Well, it is shorter than the other books but is longer than most short books. This book is mainly just a poetic story which is a summary of *The Boggle at BeWILDerwood*. This is a nice book to read before bed if you like poetic books.

A Boggle at BeWILDerwood	4.99/5
The BeWILDerbats	5/5
A BeWILDermuddle	4.99/5
The Ballad of BeWILDerwood	4.99/5

Eva R • Year 7

Images: halloween 009 by inky2010 and halloween pumpkins by yeKcim on Open Clipari

PUZZLES



Halloween Wordsearch

Ε	S	0	0	U	N	0	R	D	L	U	Α	С	L
M	Ε	Ε	Ε	Α	Р	Р	Α	R	I	T	I	0	N
N	S	Ε	٧	Ι	T	Α	С	K	С	Α	L	В	N
С	U	R	Α	Y	В	С	S	R	R	Α	U	Ε	В
R	0	I	M	E	Υ	M	Ε	Α	R	M	Α	S	L
Ε	Н	Ε	P	В	L	0	0	D	Υ	U	P	I	Α
Ε	D	S	Ι	Y	R	D	D	Z	T	0	٧	Н	С
Р	Ε	D	R	Ε	C	Α	Ε	U	0	Ε	N	0	K
Υ	T	Ε	Ε	R	Ε	В	M	K	С	S	I	R	С
D	N	M	Ε	D	0	N	Υ	T	T	W	K	R	L
R	U	0	S	С	Α	R	Υ	R	0	Ε	P	I	0
В	Α	N	M	U	M	M	Y	K	В	Ε	M	В	Α
0	Н	Ε	M	В	R	0	0	M	Ε	T	U	L	K
Α	F	T	Ε	R	L	I	F	Ε	R	S	P	Ε	Α

Afterlife **Apparition** Autumn Black Cat Black Cloak Bloody **Broom** Cauldron Creepy Dark Dead Demon Eerie Evil Haunted Houses Horrible Mummy October **Pumpkin** Scary Spooky **Sweets Vampire** Zombie

Jasmine S • Year 7



Halloween Quiz

- I. When is Halloween?
- 2. Which US state holds the record for largest pumpkin ever grown?
- 3. What do you call a group of witches?
- 4. What can kill a vampire?
- 5. Before pumpkins, what did people use to carve?

Ruby R • Year 12





COME TO THE CABARET

Enjoy the legendary Cabaret Experience for one night only, by joining our talented 6th form Performing Arts Students in an evening of live entertainment.

> Thursday 14 November 6:30pm Tickets: £6.00 Adults £4:00 Concessions





www.wathacademy.com